United Nations A/55/439

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 October 2000
English
Original: Russian

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 10, 29, 39, 60 and 73

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 29 September 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a "Declaration on allied cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia directed towards the twenty-first century", signed in Moscow on 26 September 2000 by Mr. V. V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, and Mr. R. S. Kocharian, President of the Republic of Armenia (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 10, 29, 39, 60 and 73.

(*Signed*) M. **Abelian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 29 September 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Armenia and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration on allied cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia directed towards the twenty-first century

The President of the Russian Federation and the President of the Republic of Armenia,

Having considered in depth the status and prospects for development of the whole range of Russian-Armenian relations,

Guided by the solid links which have developed over the course of history between Russia and Armenia and the age-old ties of fraternity and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries and on the basis of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance of 29 August 1997,

Convinced that the further strengthening of friendly relations and the strategic partnership, alliance and mutual cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia is in the fundamental interests of the peoples of the two countries,

Noting the importance and expediency of coordinated action in the international arena and of close cooperation in all areas of inter-State relations,

Desiring to develop and improve integration within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and in compliance with the commitments arising from the participation of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia therein and in the Treaty on Collective Security of 15 May 1992,

Noting the importance of the formation of a multipolar world and the establishment of a just international order in the twenty-first century based on the primacy of law,

Reaffirming their commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and other instruments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the universally recognized principles and rules of international law, and international standards in the field of human rights,

Have agreed as follows:

1. On the threshold of the twenty-first century, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia are firmly resolved to increase and strengthen friendship between the peoples of the two countries. They will build their relationship on the basis of wide-ranging strategic cooperation in a spirit of mutual trust, guided by the principles of respect for sovereignty, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use of force or the threat of force, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equal rights and mutual advantage.

The solid legal basis for the current and future development and deepening of a comprehensive relationship and allied cooperation between the two fraternal peoples

and States is the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance of 29 August 1997.

2. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia, which hold the same or similar positions on current international problems, will deepen their constructive and systematic foreign policy cooperation on a bilateral basis and also within the United Nations, OSCE, CIS and other international and regional organizations and forums in the interests of strengthening peace, stability and security both in the region and on a global scale.

The Russian Federation supports and welcomes the entry of the Republic of Armenia into the Council of Europe.

3. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia reaffirm their commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which have demonstrated their universal and enduring character, and will promote the further strengthening and renewal of the United Nations and the consolidation of its central role in world affairs.

The Parties base their position on the fact that the United Nations has the central role in the maintenance of international peace and security while at the same time the significance of regional structures in the prevention and peaceful settlement of inter-ethnic, religious, territorial and other conflicts, in strict accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the decisions of the Security Council of the United Nations and the rules of international law, is growing.

The Parties greatly appreciate the important political results of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations and will cooperate closely in the interests of the successful holding of the Millennium Assembly, and they call upon all States Members of the United Nations to make a constructive contribution to the attainment of that goal.

The Parties reject military intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States in circumvention of the Charter of the United Nations and without the approval of the Security Council.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia reaffirm the right of each State to choose its path towards its own political, economic and social development and to ensure its own security. The Parties consider that actions by States to strengthen their security should not lead to the establishment of dividing lines or give rise to distrust and should not be carried out at the cost of the security of other countries.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia support the strengthening of the key role of OSCE in the prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts in conjunction with the securing of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right of national minorities, in building conditions of peace, agreement and lasting security and stability in Europe.

4. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia will work consistently to improve the Commonwealth of Independent States in order to achieve the maximum effectiveness of its potential for integration and peace-building while respecting the interests of all States Parties to CIS.

5. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia will coordinate their foreign policy activities with a view to carrying out joint or agreed actions aimed at strengthening security in the Caucasus region. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia believe that the basis for strengthening security and developing cooperation in the Caucasus is interaction between all the countries of the region and they attach special importance to the constructive role of the "Caucasus Four".

The Parties welcome the initiatives of the international community promoting the establishment of a climate of trust and cooperation in the region.

6. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia support the speedy settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict solely by peaceful means on a just basis acceptable to all the parties.

In this connection, the Russian Federation welcomes the direct dialogue which is taking place at the highest level between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Republic of Armenia notes with satisfaction the constructive role of the Russian Federation in the settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

7. The Parties will cooperate actively to ensure joint defence within the framework of common military strategic goals on the basis of the Treaty on Collective Security of 15 May 1992. The Presidents of the Russian Federation and of the Republic of Armenia believe that the strengthening of the effectiveness of that Treaty is an important guarantee of the security of the States Parties.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia will develop bilateral military political cooperation not directed against third countries.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia will continue their cooperation on matters relating to their borders on the basis of the Treaty on the Status of the Border Troops of the Russian Federation situated in the territory of the Republic of Armenia and the conditions of their functioning of 30 September 1992.

8. The Parties are convinced of the lasting value in the current circumstances of the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems of 26 May 1972 as the cornerstone of strategic stability and the basis of further reductions in strategic attack weapons. They are opposed to any measures which would erode the purposes and provisions of the anti-ballistic missile Treaty.

9. An important direction for the development of Russian-Armenian relations is more active cooperation in the struggle against terrorism, including international terrorism, organized crime and extremism and against illegal trafficking in narcotic substances, arms and cultural and historical valuables. The Parties hold common positions concerning the need for resolute action and a definitive end to the activities of terrorists in the Caucasus.

10. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia attach primary importance to the strengthening of mutually advantageous economic cooperation.

To that end, the Parties will promote to the maximum an increase in the volume of trade, the development of cooperation, primarily in the fuel and energy sector, ferrous metallurgy and the chemical and light industries and in the machine

construction, agro-industrial complex, transport and transport infrastructure and the processing of precious stones sectors.

The Parties will support the further development of mutually advantageous financial and banking structures, the implementation of joint investment projects, including those involving extrabudgetary resources, the formation of transnational financial and industrial groups, joint ventures and other economic management structures, having due regard to their mutual interests.

The Parties will promote the improvement of the mechanism for the regulation and stimulation of foreign economic relations, including direct relations between agents in the Russian Federation and administrative-territorial formations in the Republic of Armenia, and also between economic agents.

The Parties note the need for a further increase in the activities of the Russian-Armenian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation in order to find speedy solutions to current issues in that area.

11. The Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation support the speedy resumption of the operation of rail and other transport communications in the Caucasus and are prepared to do their utmost in that direction.

12. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia guarantee to their citizens, irrespective of their ethnic origin, equal rights and freedoms without any discrimination. They regard ethnic Russians living in the Republic of Armenia and ethnic Armenians living in the Russian Federation as organic parts of the Russian and Armenian communities, a factor for maintaining the closeness between the peoples of the two countries and a reliable pledge of the stability of their friendly relations. The Parties will promote the enhancement of the role of the Russian language in the educational system and social and cultural life of the Republic of Armenia, taking into account the historical significance of the Russian language in mutual relations between the Russian and Armenian peoples.

13. Considering ecological security to be one of the main goals, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia will, in accordance with their international obligations and national legislation, stimulate cooperation in that field through exchanges of experience in the conservation of natural resources, the introduction of environmentally sound technology and the implementation of measures to protect and preserve the environment.

14. The Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia will do everything possible to promote the spiritual and cultural closeness of the peoples of the two countries, to deepen mutual relations in the spheres of culture, science, health, education and information, and to promote the establishment of direct relations between legislative organs, organs of State power, social and youth organizations, cultural and artistic organizations and individuals in those fields, research centres, educational establishments and mass information media.

The Parties will encourage a rapprochement between the national educational systems by preserving the general educational and intellectual space, inter alia on the basis of the development of joint curricula for students and pupils, the training and advanced training of specialists, the recognition of the equivalence of educational diplomas and the conferment of academic degrees and titles.

Special importance will be attached to support of the activities of the Russian-Armenian University in Erevan.

15. The Presidents of the Russian Federation and of the Republic of Armenia are convinced that the twenty-first century will open up for the peoples of the two countries wide-ranging prospects for allied cooperation, the intensive deepening of relations in all fields in the interests of the comprehensive development of the national economies and cultures, the safeguarding of a stable peace, stability and guaranteed security in the Caucasus region and throughout the world.

DONE at Moscow on 26 September 2000.

(*Signed*) R. **Kocharian**
President of the Republic of Armenia

(*Signed*) V. **Putin**
President of the Russian Federation